

The Urban Link



Newsletter of the Institute of Urban Studies

<http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca>

Director's Note

Dr. Jino Distasio, Acting Director



IUS WELCOMES THE CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION (CST)

Environmentally sustainable transportation—be it hybrid cars, rapid transit solutions or simply efforts to cut vehicle emissions—is gaining more attention in the media and in government. It's therefore a very exciting time to announce that in the coming months, the University of Winnipeg will be the new home for the Centre for Sustainable Transportation (CST). The CST is a non-profit organization with a mandate of undertaking strategic research, educating stakeholders, offering strategic policy advice and disseminating information. The relocation of the CST was made possible through \$750,000 in Provincial and University funding. According to the CST,

"...transportation is linked to all aspects of Canadian life. Our natural environment, economic prosperity, and social well being all depend on transportation systems that are clean, efficient, and equitable. Current transportation trends are considered unsustainable. They are threatening our environmental, economic, and social future. Altering these trends is not an easy task and requires the cooperation of all stakeholders."

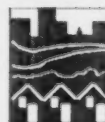
The above statement reflects the challenges facing cities in dealing with the outcome of largely unsustainable development practices that emphasizes cars and increasing suburban expansion. As well, our cities have been facing a wide range of infrastructure needs that they have been unable to address, owing in part to policy and funding neglect on the part of the federal government. However, in 2004, Ottawa announced a "new deal for cities" — a GST rebate program aimed at injecting some seven billion dollars of

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The Urban Link is published by the Institute of Urban Studies. The newsletter serves as a forum for community organizations and other individuals to express views and relay information about urban issues related to the City of Winnipeg and other Canadian cities. The newsletter also disseminates information about the Institute of Urban Studies and major initiatives housed at the Institute. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those held by the Institute of Urban Studies or the University of Winnipeg. The Urban Link is co-edited by Michael Dudley and Michelle Swanson. Contributions are welcomed on an ongoing basis. Please contact Michael Dudley at (204) 982-1140 or m.dudley@uwinnipeg.ca. ©Institute of Urban Studies, 2005



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new money into communities over the next ten years. Also, monies are to flow from a gas tax funding scheme that will see an additional five billion dollars flow into Canadian cities. Manitoba will stand to receive in excess of 160 million from the gas tax program over the next five years, with the lion's share flowing into Winnipeg.

However, there are strings attached to the gas tax money—projects must enhance the environmental sustainability of cities and communities. This means that money is to be invested into such areas as public transit and water and wastewater systems. Even with this caveat, this "new deal" affords cities like Winnipeg with an opportunity to fund rapid transit solutions that are so sorely needed. It would also help us all work towards a more sustainable transportation strategy that would deal with a host of issues. The CST's presence at the University of Winnipeg will doubtless contribute greatly to these efforts, and make the "new deal" work best for Winnipeg.

The first challenge, however, will be to establish a mandate that will ensure research and action emerge that will benefit the sustainability of cities, not only locally, but internationally as well. Recent work by the CST has included helping define what is meant by sustainable transportation, developing child friendly land use planning guidelines, conducting relevant workshops/seminars and disseminating information through its newsletter and website.

It is certainly with pleasure that I welcome and look forward to the CST's arrival at a time of great change with respect to sustainable transportation and the growth and change within Canadian cities.



The
Centre for
Sustainable
Transportation

Le
Centre pour
un transport
durable

Work on Recent Projects

Public Transportation in Steinbach, Manitoba: A Feasibility Study

In March of 2005 the Institute of Urban Studies submitted an Expression of Interest to the Steinbach Transportation Project Steering Committee (STPSC) for a study concerning the future development of sustainable transportation in Steinbach Manitoba. The STPSC has contracted with the Institute to engage in a project to outline the necessary background information required to pursue public transportation options (within the context of broader sustainable transportation principles) for the City of Steinbach, which presently has no public transit system.

May 2005 – October 2005

Work on Recent Projects ...continues on page 3



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Structural Causes of Housing Distress in Winnipeg: Implications for Programs and Service Delivery

In January 2005 the National Secretariat on Housing and Homelessness issued an RFP seeking interest in research aimed at increasing our understanding of homelessness and ways in which the risk of homelessness may be reduced. The RFP asked:

"What are the structural/systemic issues at the provincial and municipal levels that contribute to homelessness, and what changes could lead to the reduction of homelessness in the long term? How can policies, programs and services be improved to reduce the risk of homelessness? What are the most effective ways to deliver programs and services to integrate for structural and personal risk factors?"

The study will examine "housing distress" in Winnipeg in terms of *structural* factors (such as but not limited to the housing market, the economy, the labour market, the availability of services; the welfare system; and impacts of racism) at the municipal and provincial levels. The orientation of this analysis will be towards identifying and recommending changes to policy, and to the delivery of services so that they can account for these structural factors.

May 2005 – December 2005

Neighbourhoods Alive! Evaluation

The Institute of Urban Studies was hired by Intergovernmental Affairs to conduct an initial evaluation of the Provincial Government's Neighbourhoods Alive! program. IUS is assessing the extent to which revitalization priorities were achieved, and the effectiveness of the model through which these efforts were funded and managed. Through a multi-stage consultation process with Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations and community residents in 5 Winnipeg neighbourhoods as well as Brandon and Thompson, the research team gained insights into the progress made by the NA! program in terms of contributing to positive neighbourhood change, as well as the effectiveness of the community-based model through which NA! works.

September 2004 – September 2005

What's New at IUS

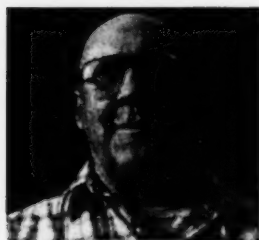
New Staff

Gary Christopher. Gary graduated from the U of M in 2003 with two degrees. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Design from the Faculty of Architecture and a second BA in History with a minor in Geography. Currently Gary is working towards completing the Masters in City Planning at the U of M. His research interests include innercity redevelopment and revitalization, and his thesis topic is building healthy communities by planning for active living.

Dianne Grant. Dianne graduated with an M.A. in cultural anthropology from Memorial University of Newfoundland in 2003. Her research focused on the reproduction of social inequality in an Inuit community in northern Labrador in 1999. In addition, she taught introductory courses at Memorial University for two semesters in 2004. In August 2004 she moved to Winnipeg with her daughter to pursue a doctoral degree at the U of M in cultural anthropology. Dianne will be working on the "Structural Causes of Housing Distress in Winnipeg: Implications for Programs and Service Delivery" research project.



Canada Research Chair in Urban Change and Adaptation



Tom Carter is co-investigator with Rick Enns on a project that has received funding from Metropolis. The project, entitled "Evaluating the Housing Careers of Recently Arrived Refugees in Edmonton, Calgary and Winnipeg," will focus on the housing needs, problems and solutions of recently arrived refugees and immigrants in the three cities and will follow their housing experiences over several years. The project will link with other similar projects across the country and the researchers will be assisted by a steering committee of community partners. An initial grant of \$30,000 has been provided by Metropolis, and funds from other organizations will be solicited to enhance the study. The work is policy relevant and timely, given that a new national housing policy framework is being developed in Canada.

Chesya Polevychok and Tom Carter have initiated a project that will develop a typology of revitalization initiatives used in Winnipeg over the past four decades. The work will also examine the effectiveness of the various approaches. The work will include literature reviews, examination of program evaluations and interviews with key informants.

Tom Carter has joined the Research and Policy Committee of the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association. He will be working with other Committee members to promote the development of a new housing policy framework for Canada. Tom has also joined the Board of the Westminster Housing Society here in Winnipeg.

Chesya Polevychok attended the Annual Conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities held in St John's, Newfoundland in early June. It was the largest in the history of the FCM and largest convention ever held in St. John's, with just under 2,000 delegates. While the conference agenda held a variety of topics, the focus was the federal government's new deal and how new government commitments might affect municipalities. The conference included a range of seminars, study tours, and trade shows. The speakers included Prime Minister,

Paul Martin, Minister of Finance, Ralph Goodale, and Minister of Labour and Housing, Joe Fontana.

Tom Carter, Canada Research Chair in Urban Change and Adaptation

Chesya Polevychok, Canada Research Chair Research Associate

Recent Reports Released:

- Housing Is Good Social Policy by Tom Carter and Chesya Polevychok

This research report prepared for the Canadian Policy Research Networks explores the relationship between housing and social policy and the role housing and housing policy plays in making social policy more effective. The discussion highlights the importance of housing as a platform for the success of other social policy areas.

- Housing Delivery Models by Tom Carter

Paper presented in February 2005 to the Expert Roundtable on "Housing Delivery Models" Ottawa, Ontario. The Expert Roundtable was part of a country-wide consultation process led by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) in collaboration with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The paper stresses the need for a range of housing delivery models to accommodate the diverse situations across the country. It also recommends strengthening of capacity in the community and non-profit sector, and models that improve inter-sectoral collaboration amongst several other recommendations to improve delivery of housing programs.

Research Highlights:

- Research Highlight #3 A New Face on Poverty: Social Assistance in Winnipeg's Inner City
- Research Highlight #4 Dwelling Change in the Inner City 1971 - 2001
- Research Highlight #5 Poverty Changes in Winnipeg Neighbourhoods 1981 - 2001
- Research Highlight #6 Canada's Major Metropolitan Centres: A Comparison

Data sets and maps focusing on various socio-economic indicators for Winnipeg were developed. Current information also includes several video files.

Reports are available at Canada Research Chair in Urban Change and Adaptation website http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/CRC/crc_aboutus_overview.htm



IUS Library

Known as "the best of the alternative press," the venerable *Utne Reader* also happens to be an outstanding source of information concerning urban issues and efforts to address them. Since its founding in 1984, *Utne* has regularly run articles related to cities, towns, urban life and environmental issues. Among recent offerings:

- "Building as if Life Mattered" (Christopher Alexander) (Nov 2004)
- "Wal-Mart: What a bargain! The real cost of shopping at a big box" (Sep/Oct 2004)
- "A new way of walking: artist explorers called psychogeographers are changing the way we experience the city" (July/Aug 2004)
- "Pedestrian power: A new movement that's got legs" (May 2004)
- "The city that works: Berkeley, often derided for its political zaniness, is one of America's best-run municipalities" (Nov/Dec 2003)
- "7 Urban wonders" (Nov/Dec 2001)
- "How we can fall in love with our hometowns" (Jan/Feb 2001)
- "Hollow city" [Gentrification in San Francisco] (Jan/Feb 2001)
- "The 10 most underrated towns in America" (Jan/Feb 2001)
- "The End of sprawl" (Sep/Oct 2000)
- "Space jam" [10 most sprawling cities in the United States] Jan/Feb 1999
- "Walking hell" [10 most dangerous cities for pedestrians] Sep/Oct 97
- "America's 10 most enlightened towns" May/June 97

We are pleased to announce that the Institute of Urban Studies Library has just received a donation of 14 years' worth of the journal, going back to 1991. The *Utne Reader* is indexed in EBSCOHost, ProQuest and the Alternative Press Index, all of which are available through the University of Winnipeg library homepage, <http://cybrary.uwinnipeg.ca>.

New Books Received

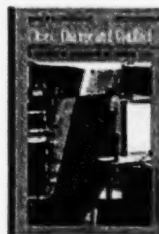
Several excellent undergraduate textbooks in urban studies have arrived at IUS:



Gottdiener, M. & R. Hutchison. **The New Urban Sociology** (2nd ed.). McGraw-Hill. 2001.

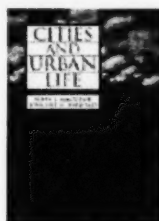
This textbook explores historical and modern urban life through the lens of the "new urban sociology," (or political economy) approach, which is characterized by an awareness of the metropolitan scale; an acknowledgment of the influences of global capitalism; the role of institutions, including real

estate interests and government; the importance of culture(s); and the socio-psychological dimensions of space.



Kleniewski, N. **Cities, Change, and Conflict: A Political Economy of Urban Life**. Thomson Learning. 2002.

Kleniewski also takes a political economy approach to her discussion of cities, and provides regular comparisons with human ecology perspectives. Strengths as a tool for undergraduate courses include discussion questions, references to web resources and online exercises at the end of each chapter. Special themes include urban experiences of women, immigrants and African Americans, as well as public administration and federal urban policy in the United States.



Macionis, J. & V. Parillo. **Cities and Urban Life** (3rd ed.). Pearson/Prentice-Hall. 2004.

While this textbook makes reference to the above theoretical perspectives on cities, it is much broader in that it also stresses social psychological and geographical perspectives too. International cities are also given historical and contemporary examinations.

Other new titles include:

- Bellan, R. C. 2003. *Canada's cities: A history*. Winnipeg: Whitefield Press.
- Berube, A., Katz, B. & Lang, R. E., (Eds.). 2003. *Redefining urban and suburban America*, Volume 2. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.
- Delanty, G. 2003. *Community*. London: Routledge
- Friedmann, J. 2005. *China's urban transition*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Heinberg, R. 2004. *Powerdown: Options and actions for a post-carbon world*. Washington D.C.: New Society Press.
- Kotkin, J. 2005. *The city: A global history*. Modern Library
- Kunstler, J.H. 2005. *The long emergency*. New York: Grove/Atlantic.
- Neuwirth, R. 2005. *Shadow cities*. London: Routledge
- Sandercock, L. 1998. *Towards cosmopolis*. Toronto: John Wiley & Sons Canada.

IUS Library Hours

Mon to Fri, 8:30am to 4:30pm.
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COPIES NOW AVAILABLE!

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF URBAN RESEARCH *Revue canadienne de recherche urbaine*

Editor: Ian Skelton

Canadian Planning and Policy - Aménagement et politique au Canada

Volume 14, Issue 1, Supplement 2005

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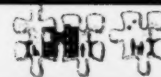
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Outside Canada subscriptions must be paid in US funds.

Prices include GST, where applicable (GST Registration #R108162645)



Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance



Updates on Community-based Research

The following reports are now available on the WIRA website:

- **Urban Dakota and Dene Quality of Life Indicators Project: Phase 1**
*By Keely Ten Fingers, Research and Policy Development Unit
Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs*
- **A Profile of Income Assistance Recipients in Winnipeg's Inner City**
*By Byron M. Sheldrick, Dept. of Politics, University of Winnipeg with Harold Dyck,
Troy Myers and Claudette Michell*

For these and other full reports plus details about WIRA research projects, visit:
http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/wira_research_projects

WIRA Summer Institute: Urban Revitalization in Montréal

The Winnipeg Inner City Research Alliance sponsored its fourth annual Summer Institute during the period May 29th to June 4th 2005. This year Tom Carter and Marc Vachon of the Geography Department took nineteen students to Montréal for a six day urban field trip focusing on urban revitalization. Funding from SSHRC under the Community University Research Alliance Program (CURA) made the field trip possible.

Various aspects of urban disinvestment and revitalization were highlighted by tours of the Lachine Canal area, Old Montréal, the Underground City, the Old Port area and neighbourhoods such as Parc Extension, Saint-Henri, Rosemont and Hochelage-Maissoneuve. Specific projects such as Benny Farm, redevelopment of a massive post war public housing project, were included in the many urban field trips. Field trips were supplemented by presentations from community workers and city planners.

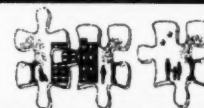
There was consensus from the group that this was an excellent way to learn about many aspects of urban decline and revitalization as Montréal is one of the best case studies in North America for an urban field trip with this focus. Evening after class activities also enhanced students' appreciation of many aspects of the diverse urban environment in Montréal. The field trip and follow up assignments provide students with a half course credit 84:3013/3: Urban Studies Special Topics.

A complete evaluation of the field trip plus additional material will be available shortly on the WIRA website.





Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance



Updates on Community-based Research

Available in September 2005!

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF URBAN RESEARCH
Revue canadienne de recherche urbaine

Volume 14, Issue 1, Summer 2005
WINNIPEG INNER CITY RESEARCH ALLIANCE
Tackling the Challenges of Inner City Marginalization: A Partnership Approach

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CUexpo 2005



Community-University Research Partnerships: Leaders in Urban Change

September 15-18th, 2005 | Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada | Delta Hotel, downtown Winnipeg

CUexpo2005 is fast approaching! Conference organizers are working hard to plan the details for this unforgettable opportunity to share and learn about the dynamics of community-based research partnerships—

- **Breakout sessions** have been chosen. Thank you to all who submitted such excellent proposals! We have confirmed 92 different sessions, including interactive Workshops, project Presentations and intriguing Burning Questions. Session summaries and a breakout session schedule are now on our website.
- **Field trips** to 10 different destinations have been arranged to neighbourhoods and organizations all around Winnipeg.
- **Conference registration** took off in June! Regular Registration continues until September 1. Register early to secure your field trip of choice!
- **Keynote Speakers** have been confirmed! Mayor William Johnson from Rochester, NY will kick things off on Thursday night. Lloyd Axworthy will speak on Friday morning along with Karen Kinsley of CMHC and Pamela Wiggin from SSHRC. David Newhouse appears on Saturday afternoon, and Cathy Crowe will join us for brunch on Sunday morning.
- **Panelists** have also been nailed down. John Loxley, John Biles and Dennis Howlett will explore “Research as Advocacy: Influencing Policy Change” on Friday afternoon. Randy Stoecker, Judith Bartlett and Sheri Blake will discuss the “Balance of Power and Participation in Community-University Partnerships” on Saturday morning.
- **Shared Registration** is still available to select Winnipeg organizations. See our website or call Katie at 982-1143 to see if you qualify!

For more details and updated info, visit the CUexpo website: <http://cuexpo.uwinnipeg.ca/>

